

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00  
ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00  
CIEP-01 COME-00 DLOS-06 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01  
ERDA-05 FEAE-00 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05  
IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-06  
OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAL-01 /115 W  
-----091840Z 113199 /41

O R 091727Z FEB 77  
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2976  
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 3102  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
SHAPE

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EFIS, PLOS, EEC  
SUBJECT: EASTERN EUROPEAN INTEREST IN FISHING IN EC WATERS

REFS: A) LONDON 2218; B) EC BRUSSELS 897; C) EC BRUSSELS  
1151; D) EC BRUSSELS 1065

1. SUMMARY: ON FEBRUARY 7, THE UK ON BEHALF OF THE EC  
RESPONDED TO THE SOVIET OFFER TO NEGOTIATE A FISHERY  
AGREEMENT AND REMINDED THE USSR OF THE NEED TO OBTAIN  
FISHING LICENSES IF IT WISHED TO CONTINUE FISHING IN EC  
WATERS THROUGH MARCH 31. DURING THEIR FEBRUARY 8 COUNCIL  
MEETING THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS DECIDED TO GIVE THE USSR  
"REASONABLE" TIME TO SEEK FISHING LICENSES OR STOP ITS  
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FISHING ACTIVITIES IN EC WATERS. THE COUNCIL ALSO AGREED  
THAT THE EC MEMBER STATES WILL COORDINATE ON THE MEASURES  
TO ENFORCE APPLICATION OF THE FISHING LICENSES REGULATION  
APPROVED ON JANUARY 28, BUT THAT IT WILL BE UP TO EACH COASTAL  
STATE TO POLICE ITS OWN FISHING ZONE. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING THEIR FEBRUARY 8 COUNCIL MEETING, THE EC

FOREIGN MINISTERS DECIDED THAT THE MEMBER STATES SHOULD STEADILY AND FIRMLY APPLY ENFORCEMENT MEASURES TO OBTAIN COMPLIANCE WITH THE COMMUNITY'S FISHING LICENSE REGULATION FOR EASTERN EUROPEAN FLEETS APPROVED JANUARY 28 (REF B). UK MINISTER OF STATE DAVID OWEN TOLD THE PRESS AFTER THE MEETING THAT THE COUNCIL POSITION REMAINED THAT USSR FISHING WITHOUT LICENSES IN THE NEW 200-MILE FISHING ZONES OF THE MEMBER STATES WAS ILLEGAL AS OF MIDNIGHT FEBRUARY 8. WHILE THE EC WILL NOT ACT PRECIPITOUSLY IN VIEW OF THE SOVIET OFFER TO NEGOTIATE A FISHING AGREEMENT, UK FOREIGN MINISTER CROSLAND, AS COUNCIL PRESIDENT, TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE COUNCIL HAD AGREED TO GIVE THE USSR "A MINIMUM REASONABLE NUMBER OF DAYS TO DECIDE WHAT ITS POSTURE WILL BE VIS-A-VIS THE EC" AND THAT AFTER THAT THE UK AND OTHER MEMBER STATES WILL "ACT VERY RAPIDLY" IN REGARD TO SOVIET TRAWLERS.

3. BOTH CROSLAND AND OWEN REFUSED TO BE DRAWN OUT FURTHER ON THE ACTUAL TIMING AND NATURE OF THE MEASURES WHICH WILL BE TAKEN TO FORCE THE SOVIETS TO STOP FISHING. OWEN NOTED THAT, WHILE THE MEMBER STATES WILL COORDINATE ON THE MEASURES TO BE TAKEN AGAINST THE USSR, EACH EC COASTAL STATE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR APPLICATION IN ITS EXTENDED FISHING ZONE. HE NOTED THAT AT LAST COUNT THERE WERE 60 SOVIET TRAWLERS IN UK WATERS AND THAT THE COUNCIL HAD ASKED THE OTHER MEMBER STATES FOR INFORMATION ON SOVIET FISHING ACTIVITY IN THEIR WATERS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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4. COMMISSION SOURCES CONFIRMED THAT UK RESPONSE TO THE SOVIET OFFER TO NEGOTIATE A FISHING AGREEMENT WAS APPROVED BY THE MEMBER STATES ON FEBRUARY 7 IN COREPER, WITHOUT THE NECESSITY OF A COUNCIL DECISION, AND DELIVERED TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN LONDON THE SAME DAY. AS NOTED IN REFS A AND C, THE UK, ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, INVITED THE USSR TO OPEN TALKS SOON IN BRUSSELS WITH AN EC DELEGATION WHICH WOULD BE HEADED BY THE UK AS PRESIDENCY COUNTRY. WHEN DELIVERING THE RESPONSE, HMG WAS TO HAVE INFORMED THE USSR THAT THE EC COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE ON THE COMMUNITY DELEGATION WOULD PRESENT THE EC POSITION "GIVEN THE COMMISSION'S AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE FISHERY AGREEMENTS." THE USSR WAS ALSO TO HAVE BEEN REMINDED THAT IT SHOULD APPLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR FISHING LICENSES AS REQUESTED ON JANUARY 28 SINCE THE DEADLINE FOR FISHING WITHOUT LICENSES EXPIRED FEBRUARY 8.

5. OWEN TOLD THE PRESS AFTER THE FEBRUARY 8 COUNCIL MEETING THAT THE MINISTERS HAD AGREED THAT NO FURTHER REMINDERS OF THE NEED TO APPLY FOR LICENSES WOULD BE SENT TO THE USSR. HE ALSO STRESSED THAT EC-SOVIET NEGOTIATIONS WOULD COVER SOVIET FISHING AFTER EXPIRATION OF THE INTERIM FISHING ARRANGEMENTS ON MARCH 31 BUT THAT THE NEED TO OBTAIN FISHING LICENSES WAS IMMEDIATE AND "NON-NEGOTIABLE." HE ADDED THAT POLAND AND THE GDR MUST HAVE CONSULTED WITH THE USSR BEFORE SUBMITTING LISTS FOR VESSELS FOR FISHING LICENSES AND SAID THAT THESE WERE "MOVES IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION".

6. COMMENT: WITHOUT ASCRIBING A REASON FOR IT, WE FIND INTERESTING THAT THE USSR HAS OFFERED TO NEGOTIATE (BUT REFUSED SO FAR TO SUBMIT TO THE LICENSING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REQUIREMENTS) WHILE THE POLISH AND GDR ARE WILLING TO APPLY FOR LICENSES (BUT HAVE FAILED TO INDICATE AN INTEREST IN NEGOTIATIONS). HINTON

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Reference:** 77 LONDON 2218, 77 EC BRUSSELS 897  
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